

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating or ~~preventing~~ reducing the likelihood of miniaturization of the hair follicle and/or ~~alopecia~~ alopecia, comprising administering to a human being an oral composition comprising at least one of taurine, hypotaurine, salts of taurine and salts of hypotaurine, and at least one polyphenol, in an amount effective for treating or ~~preventing~~ reducing the likelihood of miniaturization of the hair follicle and/or alopecia;

wherein the taurine, hypotaurine, and salts thereof are the sole active amino acid; ~~and~~

~~wherein the oral composition comprises at least 21.7 wt % of the taurine, hypotaurine, and/or salts thereof.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~treating or preventing miniaturization of the hair follicle comprises reducing or preventing~~ method treats or reduces the likelihood of impairment of the connective tissue of the hair follicle.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~treating or preventing miniaturization of the hair follicle comprises reducing or preventing~~ method treats or reduces the likelihood of impairment of the hair follicle induced by rigidification of the connective sheath.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~treating or preventing miniaturization of the hair follicle comprises reducing or preventing~~ method treats or reduces the likelihood of impairment of the hair follicle induced by excessive crosslinking and/or synthesis of natural collagens.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~treating or preventing miniaturization of the hair follicle comprises regulating method~~ regulates the metabolism and structure of collagens in perifollicular skin tissue.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~treating or preventing miniaturization of the hair follicle comprises regulating method~~ regulates the metabolism and structure of collagens in the connective sheath of the hair follicle.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~amount effective for treating or preventing miniaturization of the hair follicle and/or alopecia~~ an amount of taurine is between 0.5 and 4000 mg/day ~~of~~ in the form of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or ~~acceptable salts thereof, as taurine equivalent.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~amount effective for treating or preventing miniaturization of the hair follicle and/or alopecia~~ an amount of taurine is between 10 and 500 mg/day ~~of~~ in the form of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or ~~acceptable salts thereof, as taurine equivalent.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~amount effective for treating or preventing miniaturization of the hair follicle and/or alopecia~~ an amount of taurine is between 50 and 150 mg/day ~~of~~ in the form of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or ~~acceptable salts thereof, as taurine equivalent.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~acceptable salts of taurine and/or hypotaurine~~ are the magnesium, manganese, iron II or zinc salts.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof~~ are used in combination with at least one of

~~the compounds chosen from fatty acids, polyphenols and extracts comprising the same oral composition further comprises at least one fatty acid.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 12~~, claim 1, wherein ~~the polyphenols are chosen from~~ polyphenol is at least one member selected from the group consisting of flavones, flavonols, isoflavones, anthocyanins, flavanols, ~~proanthocyanidins and proanthocyanidins~~, flavanones, and stilbenes.

14. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein ~~the fatty acids are chosen from~~ acid is selected from the group consisting of n-6 and n-3 essential polyunsaturated fatty acids, acids containing between 18 and 22 carbon atoms, ~~and also~~ esters thereof, and mixtures thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 12~~, claim 1, wherein the oral composition is in the form of a food supplement.

16-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 12~~, claim 1, wherein ~~the polyphenols are chosen from~~ polyphenol is selected from the group consisting of catechin, epicatechin, epigallocatechin 3-O-gallate, epigallocatechin, epicatechin 3-gallate, ~~procyanidins and~~ proanthocyanidins, and mixtures thereof.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 12~~, claim 1, wherein the daily dose of ~~polyphenol(s)~~ the polyphenol is between 0.5 and 2000 mg/day.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 12~~, claim 1, wherein the daily dose of ~~polyphenols~~ the polyphenol is from about 0.5 to 1000 mg/day.

22. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fatty ~~acid(s)~~ acid is ~~(are) chosen from~~ selected from the group consisting of linoleic acid,  $\gamma$ -linolenic acid, linolenic acid, stearidonic acid, ~~crocetin and~~ crocetin, 5,8,11,14-eicosatetraenoic acid, and mixtures thereof.

23. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the daily dose of the fatty-acids acid is between 0.5 and 3500 mg/day.

24. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the ~~dose of~~ fatty acid is at least one n-6 fatty-acids is acid in an amount of ~~between 0.5 and to~~ 2600 mg/day.

25. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the ~~dose of~~ fatty acid is at least one n-3 fatty-acids is acid in an amount of ~~between 0.5 and to~~ 2500 mg/day.

26. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oral composition ~~also further~~ comprises at least one ~~of the supplements chosen from~~ supplement selected from the group consisting of vitamins C and E, zinc ~~or its salts, selenium and salts thereof, selenium,~~ and carotenoids.

27. (Withdrawn) A composition for oral absorption, comprising, as active agent, at least 0.05% to 80% by weight of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or salts thereof acceptable for oral absorption and an excipient, said composition being free of vitamin C.

28. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 27, characterized in that it comprises at least one polyphenol and/or at least one fatty acid and/or a salt thereof acceptable in an oral composition.

29. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 28, characterized in that it comprises from 0.01% to 10% by weight of at least one polyphenol and/or 0.1% to 10% by weight of at least one fatty acid.

30. (Withdrawn) A composition for oral absorption, characterized in that it comprises at least one polyphenol chosen from flavonols, anthocyanins, flavanols, proanthocyanidins and flavanones, and stilbenes, and/or a fatty acid chosen from n-6 and n-3 essential polyunsaturated fatty acid(s), containing between 18 and 22 carbon atoms, and also

esters thereof, and mixtures thereof, and/or an extract comprising the same, in combination with taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or salts thereof acceptable for oral absorption and, where appropriate, an excipient.

31. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 28, characterized in that it comprises at least some polyphenols in combination with taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof in a polyphenol/taurine weight ratio at least equal to 0.5, in particular greater than or equal to 0.75 and especially greater than or equal to 1.

32. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 28, characterized in that it comprises 0.01% to 30% by weight of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof, in combination with 0.1% to 50% by weight of extracts comprising at least one polyphenol.

33. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 30, characterized in that it comprises at least some catechins in combination with taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof.

34. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 33, characterized in that it comprises 0.01% to 30% by weight of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof, in combination with 0.1% to 25% by weight of catechins.

35. (Withdrawn) A composition for oral absorption, characterized in that it comprises 0.01% to 30% by weight of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof, in combination with 0.01% to 10% by weight of fatty acids.

36. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 29, characterized in that it also comprises at least one of the compounds chosen from vitamins C and E, zinc or its salts, selenium and at least one carotenoid, preferably a carotenoid chosen from  $\beta$ -carotene, lycopene, zeaxanthin and lutein.

37. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 29, characterized in that the excipient is acceptable for a food supplement, in the form of a sugarcoated tablet, a gel capsule, a gel, an emulsion, a tablet, a wafer capsule, a drinkable ampule, a dilutable or nondilutable powder, dietary bars or enriched foods.

38. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 27, characterized in that it is a food supplement.

39. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic process for treating ~~and preventing or reducing the likelihood of~~ miniaturization of the hair follicle and/or alopecia via the oral administration of an oral composition comprising taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof, and at least one polyphenol;

wherein the taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof are the only active amino acid administered; ~~and~~

~~wherein the taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof are administered in the form of an oral composition that comprises at least 21.7 wt % of the taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof.~~

40. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 39, in which the taurine, hypotaurine ~~or~~ and/or acceptable salts thereof is (are) administered at a dose of from 0.5 to 4000 mg per day, ~~as taurine equivalent~~ of taurine.

41. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 39, in which the taurine, hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof is (are) used in combination with at least one ~~of the supplements chosen from~~ supplement selected from the group consisting of zinc, polyphenols, fatty acids, vitamin C, vitamin E, and ~~one (or more) carotenoid(s)~~ carotenoids.

42. (Withdrawn) A cosmetic process for treating and preventing disorders of the pilosebaceous unit via the oral administration of at least one fatty acid, one polyphenol or an

extract comprising the same, optionally in combination with taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof.

43. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 42, in which the taurine, hypotaurine or acceptable salts thereof is (are) administered at a dose of from 0.5 to 4000 mg per day, as taurine equivalent, and at least one fatty acid is administered at a dose of from 0.5 to 5400 mg/day, or a polyphenol is administered at a dose of from 0.5 to 2000 mg/day.